

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6860

Petitions of Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.)
(VELCO), Vermont Transco, LLC, Green Mountain Power)
Corporation (GMP), and Central Vermont Public Service)
Corporation (CVPS) for a certificate of public good,)
pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248, authorizing VELCO to)
construct the so-called Northwest Vermont Reliability)
Project, said project to include: (1) upgrades at 12 existing)
VELCO and GMP substations located in Charlotte, Essex,)
Hartford, New Haven, North Ferrisburgh, Poultney,)
Shelburne, South Burlington, Vergennes, West Rutland,)
Williamstown, and Williston, Vermont; (2) the construction)
of a new 345 kV transmission line from West Rutland to)
New Haven; (3) the reconstruction of a portion of a 34.5 kV)
and 46 kV transmission line from New Haven to South)
Burlington; and (4) the reconductoring of a 115 kV)
transmission line from Williamstown to Barre, Vermont)

Order entered: 9/2/2010

ORDER RE MODIFICATION OF SCREENING REQUIREMENT

On August 10, 2010, Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. ("VELCO") filed a letter describing a proposed modification of the vegetative screening adjacent to Town Hill Road in New Haven, Vermont. VELCO proposes to replace several pin oak and white spruce trees with Hawthorn trees. The modification is designed to allow construction of a new 46 kV transmission line by Central Vermont Public Service Corporation ("CVPS") within the VELCO right-of-way at the Town Hill Road crossing.¹ VELCO explains that "the pin oak and white spruce trees would grow to a height that would interfere with the operation of CVPS' 46 kV conductors."

1. The CVPS 46 kV line is part of its "Middlebury Reliability Project," which the Board approved in an Order issued August 20, 2010, in Docket No. 7597. In that Order, the Board noted that the proposed modification of the Town Hill Road screening to accommodate the CVPS 46 kV line "requires Board approval in Docket No. 6860 because it would modify the mitigation requirements from that proceeding." Docket Nos. 7596/7597, Order of 8/20/10 at 51.

In its August 10 filing VELCO includes a memorandum from Terry Boyle, who is VELCO's aesthetic consultant, and e-mail correspondence from David Raphael, who is the aesthetic consultant for the Department of Public Service. Both Mr. Boyle and Mr. Raphael conclude that the proposed modification to the Town Hill Road screening will not have adverse aesthetic impacts.

In its filing, VELCO states:

VELCO and CVPS suggest that no further Board action is required. . . . In the event the Board determines that any further action is required, VELCO and CVPS respectfully request that the Board take such action as soon as practicable.

The Board established a deadline of August 24, 2010, for any comments on VELCO's August 10 filing. On August 18, 2010, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission filed comments stating that it does not object to the proposed modification to the screening at Town Hill Road. No other comments were filed.

We conclude that the proposed modification is appropriate, in that it will allow for construction of the CVPS 46 kV line and will not have an adverse aesthetic impact. Therefore, we approve the modified vegetative screening plan for Town Hill Road in New Haven, Vermont, as submitted on August 10, 2010.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 2nd day of September, 2010.

_____)	
)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
<u>s/ David C. Coen</u>)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/ John D. Burke</u>)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: September 2, 2010

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further Order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and order.